Secrets. H-27—100,000—22-4-48.

Food (195 49) Department.

MS SERIES.

G.O. No. 485

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Dated 13-6-49

[Despatch Abstract.]

Food Situation - Madras - Report for the first night ending 30-4-49 - Review Papers Recorded.

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REPORT ON THE FOOD SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE OF MADRAS
DURING THE SECOND FORTNIGHT OF APRIL, 1949.

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1. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP PROSPECTS:

The rainfall during the fortnight was fair in Coimbatore, Ramnad, Tirunelveli, Malabar and the Nilgiris and light or nil in the other districts.

Water supply was inadequate in Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, Kurnool, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Chingleput, South Arcot, Chittoor, North Arcot, Salem, Tiruchirapalli, Ramnad and parts of Bellary, Nellore and Mathurai districts.

The condition of standing crops was poor in Chingleput, North Arcot and Coimbatore and generally fair in other districts. Paddy crop in parts of South Arcot was affected by pests. Standing crops on a major extent in Chingleput in parts of Chittoor and North Arcot had withered or were withering for want of adequate rain or water supply.

Harvest of paddy was proceeding in Ramnad and Coimbatore; of Cholam in Salem, Kurnool and Tiruchirapalli; of cumbu in Kurnool and Salem; and of ragi in Kurnool, Nellore, Salem and Tiruchirapalli. The out-turn of paddy was poor to fair in Ramnad and fair to normal in Coimbatore, while the out-turn of millets was poor to fair.

II. Extent to which rationing has been undertaken:

(i) Nature of Existing Government Commitments:--

As the beginning of the fortnight under review, statutory rationing was in force in 64 municipal areas, one panchayat area in Madras city and its suburban areas.

There was also rationing on a non-statutory basis in the rural areas of all deficit districts. As regards the surplus districts, distribution of foodgrains was made through relief shops in the upland taluks of Guntur and Nellore districts; in all other areas, distribution of foodgrains was made through retail agencies.

(ii) Towns/Areas brought under Rationing during the fortnight:

Statutory rationing was introduced with effect from 17-4-49 in the municipal areas of Dharapuram, Erode, Mettupalayam, Pollachi and Udumalpet in Coimbatore district. The introduction of regular rationing (Statutory and rural) has been completed in all the deficit districts in this Province. It has also been decided to re-introduce rural rationing in the deficit pockets (upland taluks) in the surplus districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur and Nellore and statutory rationing in the municipal towns of Rajahmundry (East Godavari), Vijayawada (Krishna), Guntur, Ongole, Chirala, and Narasaraopet (Guntur), and the necessary arrangments are being made to implement this decision at an eary date.

(iii) Population involved separately for Towns and Rural Areas:

p.t.o.

	Adults.	Children.	Total in terms of adults.
Areas under rural rationing.	2,71,43,460	87,97,631	3,15,42,276
Statutorily rationed areas.	46,48,203	13,33,~~203~~ 447	53,14,927
Areas covered by relief shops.	5,67,119	2,42,130	6,88,184

(Population figures as at the end of April, 1949)

III. REVIEW OF PROGRESS OF PROCUREMENT, BASIC PLAN MOVEMENTS ETC.

(i) Progress of Procurement: The following is the progress of procurement during and upto the fortnight ended 15-4-49.

Foodgrain.	Target for Khariff year 1948-49 (i.e. from 1-11-48 to 31-10-49) (in tons)	Quantity procured during the fortnight ended 31-3-49 (in tons.	Quantity procured during the fort night ended 15-4-49 (in tons)	Total Quantity procured from 1-11-48 to 15-4-49 (in tons)	Per Centage of total procurement to target.
Rice	15,14,900	96,113	63,202	8,60,237	56
Millets	1,68,850	4,770	3,989	23,155*	14

* Revised figures.

The fall in the procurement of rice is generally attributed to the closing stage of the main harvest in most of the districts.

(ii) Basic Plan Movements: (a) Rice: An additional quantity of 5,000 tons of rice has been allotted from Orissa, thus raising the quota from 20,000 tons to 25,000 tons for the Khariff year 1948-49. Out of the 5000 tons now allotted, the Orissa Government have offered 3896 tons from Koraput district.

~~Die~~ During May 1949, the Government of India propose to supply 5000 tons of overseas rice, Against this, 3500 tons are expected by three steamers at Cochin port shortly.

The following quantities were received during the fortnight:

	Tons.
Orissa	1769
Coorg	276
Vindhya Pradesh	607

(b) Millets and Maize: A quantity of 36 tons of Orissa jowar against an allotment indicated in October 1948, and 6000 tons of overseas maize ex.s.s. "IRAN" (arrived at Madras Port on 18-4-49) were received during the fortnight. The total receipts of 'other grains' so far under the Basic Plan 1949 amount to 28,334 tons (15,816 tons milo + 12,518 tons maize) against the ceiling quota of 2,00,000 tons fixed for the year.

The Government of India have indicated a further allotment of 4352 tons of overseas maize ex.s.s. "CANOSA" which is expected at Madras Port shortly.

(c) Wheat and Wheat Products: 6550 tons of wheat were ~~re-~~

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received in the fortnight 2050 tons ex. s.s. "VILNA" which arrived at Madras on 17-4-49, 2,500 tons ex. s.s. "RONALD SCOBIE" at Madras on 19-4-49, 2500 tons ex. s.s.s "TOWER HILL" at Cochin on 30-4-49.

The Government of India have indicated a futther allotment of ~~58~~ 4352 tons ovf overseas maize ex. s.s. "CANOSA" which is expected at Madras Port shortly.

The receipts ex. s.s. "VILNA" and the excess quantity of about 2600 tons discharged by ex. s.s. "ESSEX TRADER" and "VERGNOR" which arrived on 11-4-49 have been treated as advance quota for May 1949.

(d) Gram: A quantity 1860 tons of Bengal Gram was in transit from the East Punjab States Union to this Province during the fortnight under report and the total receipts upto the end of the fortnight from this source amounted to 12,880 tons (comprising 3300 tons of dhall, 1600 tons of gram flour and 7980 tons of whole gram. The balance quota is expected to move by the middle of May 1949.

The Supply Secretary, Bikaner Government, has since stated that fresh stocks are being moved to Hindumalkote. The Assistant Marketing Officer of the Madras Government at Nagpur has been instructed to procure and move the balance quota very expeditiously.

A quantity of only 30,000 maunds of gram of acceptable quality is available in Vindhya Pradesh Union area against the quota of 4036 tons. It will be procured and moved very shortly.

(iii) Ration (Scales and Composition and Offtake.

(a) Statutory Rationing:

There was no change in the scale and composition of the ration during the fortnight under review.

The offtake of foodgrains during the four weekly month of April 1949 was as follows:

Rice	33265	tons
Wheat and Wheat Products	2891	tons
Other grains	1152	tons
	37308	Tons

(These offtake figures do not include the offtake in the five municipal areas in the Coimbatore district where statutory rationing was introduced only on 17-4-49)

(b) Rural Rationing: There was no change in the Scale and compeeition of the ration during the fortnight under review. The offtake of foodgrains from the rural ration shops during April 1949 (four weeks only) was as follows:

Rice	58648	tons
Wheat and Wheat Products	2132	tons
Other grains	12186	tons
Total	72966	tons

(c) Distribution through Relief Shops in Unrationed Areas:

Relief shops were functioning during the fortnight under-

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review only in the upland taluks of Guntur and Nellore districts.

The offtake through relief shops functioning in Nellore and Guntur districts during April 1949 (four weeks only) was as follows:

Rice	1101	tons
Wheat and Wheat Products	16	tons
Other grains	83	tons
	1200	tons

(iv) Food Control Organisation:

Nothing special to report.

IV. REVIEW OF SUPPLIES, MOVEMENTS AND PRICES:

(i) Stock and Supply: (a) Rice: The total provincial stock decreased from 5,02,672 tons on 9th April 1949 to 4,91,920 tons on 23rd April, 1949 mainly due to decrease in procurement. The stocks in the districts were adequate.

(b) Millets and Maize: The stocks of maize and 'other grains' on the 23rd April 1949 were 3260 tons and 23694 tons respectively with over 5000 tons of maize under transit to the quota districts. Further supplies are required urgently to satisfy the increasing rationing demands of districts like Goimbatore and Salem.

(c) Wheat and Wheat Products: The stock of wheat and wheat flour on 23-4-49 was 14585 tons and 2527 tons respectively. Including the stocks in transit and those received in the ship which arrived on 30-4-49, the total stock of Wheat was about 27,900 tons.

(ii) Movements and Transport: Movements by sea from the Northern Circars to Malabar continued during the fortnight under report. The supply of wagons particularly on the M.G. section of the Circars has not been satisfactory and this resulted in large accumulation of stocks in mills impeding procurement, especially in Krishna and West Godavari districts.

No improvement in the movement of pulses into the Presidency was noticed in this fortnight also.

(iii) Prices: The statement below shows the provincial average retail prices of rice (second sort) cholam (jowar) and cumbu (bajra) during the second fortnight of April 1949.

The retail prices of these food grains fluctuated within narrow limits during the fortnight.

(PRICES ARE IN TERMS OF RUPEES PER IMPERIAL MAUND)

Foodgrain.	Prices on 23-4-49	Prices a fortnight ago.	Prices a month ago.	Prices a year ago.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Rice(2nd sort)	15,63	15,71	15.75	17.85
Cholam (jowar)	10.02	10.02	9.92	11.14
Cumbu (Bajra)	10.56	10.91	11.17	11.74

V. MISCELLANEOUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISED FOOD POLICY:

Nothing special to report.

Sd. XXXEEEEXREEEX
Superintendent,.

/True Copy/

Food Department.

NOTE FOR CIRCULATION

Sub: Food situation - Madras Province - Report for the fortnight ending 30-4-49 - Review

Ref: From the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) L.Dis.No.E.63210/489(C.S.) dated 14/5/1949.

The report on the Food situation in the Madras Province for the second fortnight of April 1949 may be perused at pp3-61-3 c.f.

RAINFALL: The rainfall during the fortnigght was fair in Coimbatore, Ramnad, Tirunelveli, Malabar and the Nilgiris and light or nil in other districts.

Water Supply: Water Supply was inadequate in the districts of Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, Kurnool, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Chingleput, South Arcot, Chittoor, North Arcot, Salem, Tiruchirapalli and Ramnad and in parts of Bellary, Nellore and Mathurai Districts.

Standing -crops: The condition of standing crops was poor in Chingleput, North Arcot and Coimbatore and generally fair in other districts. Paddy crop in parts of South Arcot was affected by pests. Standing crops on a major extent in Chingleput, in parts of Chittoor and North Arcot had withered or were withering for want of adequate rain or water supply.

HARVEST AND OUTTURN: Harvest of paddy was proceeding in Ramnad and Coimbatore; of cholam in Salem, Kurnool and Tiruchirapalli; of cumbu in Kurnool and Salem; and of ragi in Kurnool, Nellore, Salem and Tiruchirapalli. The outturn of paddy was poor to fair in Ramnad, and fair to normal in Coimbatore, while the outturn of millets was poor to fair.

STOCK AND SUPPLY POSITION: The stock position of foodgrains in the Province on 7-5-49 was as follows when compared with the stock position on 30-4-49.

Food grains.	(in tons) Stock on 30-4-49.	(in tons) Stock on 7-5-49.
Rice	4,83,960	4,78,244
Wheat	21,757	21,236
Maida	2,392	2,258
Semolina	3,739	3,590
Maize	4,571	6,163
Other grains	22,808	22,612
	5,39,227	5,29,103

Rice: The following quantities were received in the fortnight:

	Tons.
1) Orissa	1769
2) Coorg	276
3) Vindhya Pradesh	607
Total	2652

The stocks of rice in the districts were adequate.

Millets and Maize:

A auantity of 36 tons of Orissa Jowar and 6000 tons of overseas maize ex. s.s. 'IRAN' were received during the fortnight ending 30-4-49.

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The Government of India have indicated a further allotment of 4352 tons of overseas maize to this Province for May 1949.

Further supplies are required urgently to satisfy the increasing demands of districts like Coimbatore and Salem.

WHEAT AND WHEAT PRODUCTS:

6550 tons of wheat were received during the fortnight

Gram: A quantity of 1860 tons of Bengal gram has been allotted to this Province from the East Punjab States Union. This raises the total quota from this source to 12,880 tons. Towards this quota, a ~~quan~~ quantity of 1860 tons was in transit during the fortnight and the total receipts upto the end of the fortnight amounted to 11,020 tons (comprising 3,300 tons tons of dhall, 1000 tons of gram flour, 7,980 tons of whole gram). The balance quota is expected to move very shortly.

A quantity of only 30,000 maunds of gram against the quota ~~of 4038 tons of dhall, 100~~ of 4036 tons have been procured and moved from Vindhya Pradesh Union.

Progress of Procurement: 63,202 tons of rice and 3989 tons of millets were procured during the fortnight ending 15-4-49 as against 96,113 tons of rice and 4770 tons of millets procured during the fortnight ending 31-3-49.

PRICES: The statement of price 'H' on p. 7 ~~of. on pp9-14~~ may be perused.

The case may be circulated to Hon'ble Minister (Food) Hon'ble Minister (Public Works) and His Excellency for Perusal.

Sd. x x x
20-5-49.

P.S.G His Excellency has seen, thanks,

Sd. x x x
30.5.49.

Food Department

TO A.S.

This may now be sent to Public Works (I & P) for perusal and return.

Sd. x x x
1.6.49.

Public Works (I&P)

Seen in I & P.

Sd. x x x
3-6-49.

Food.

The papers may now be recorded.

G.O.MS.NO. 485, Dated 13-6-49.
Food Situation - Madras Report for the ~~night~~ fortnight ending 30-4-49 - Review Papers recorded.

Sd. x x x
11-6-49.

/True Copy/

Superintendent,
4-8-1953,
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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